

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-38 and 40-43 are pending. Applicant has canceled Claim 39 and Claims 44-57 without prejudice. No new matter has been added, and all of the pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

Pursuant to the above amendments and remarks, allowance of the pending application is believed to be warranted. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact directly the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of this application to issue.

No fee is believed to be due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merchant & Gould, LLC



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Allan G. Altera  
Reg. No. 40,274

February 19, 2004

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE